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by Richard Sebra

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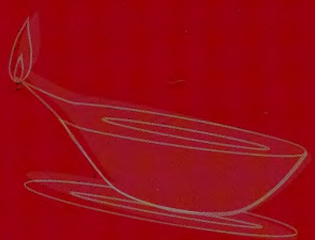

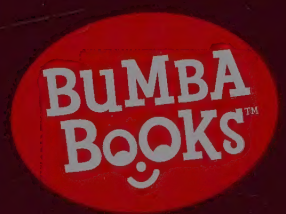

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Note to Educators:

Throughout this book, you'll find critical thinking questions. These can be used to engage young readers in thinking critically about the topic and in using the text and photos to do so.

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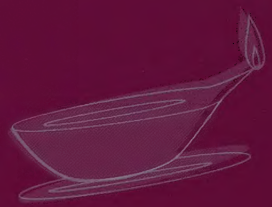

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Diwali

Diwali is an Indian holiday.

It happens in October

or November.

Many people in India celebrate Diwali. Diwali is India's most important holiday.

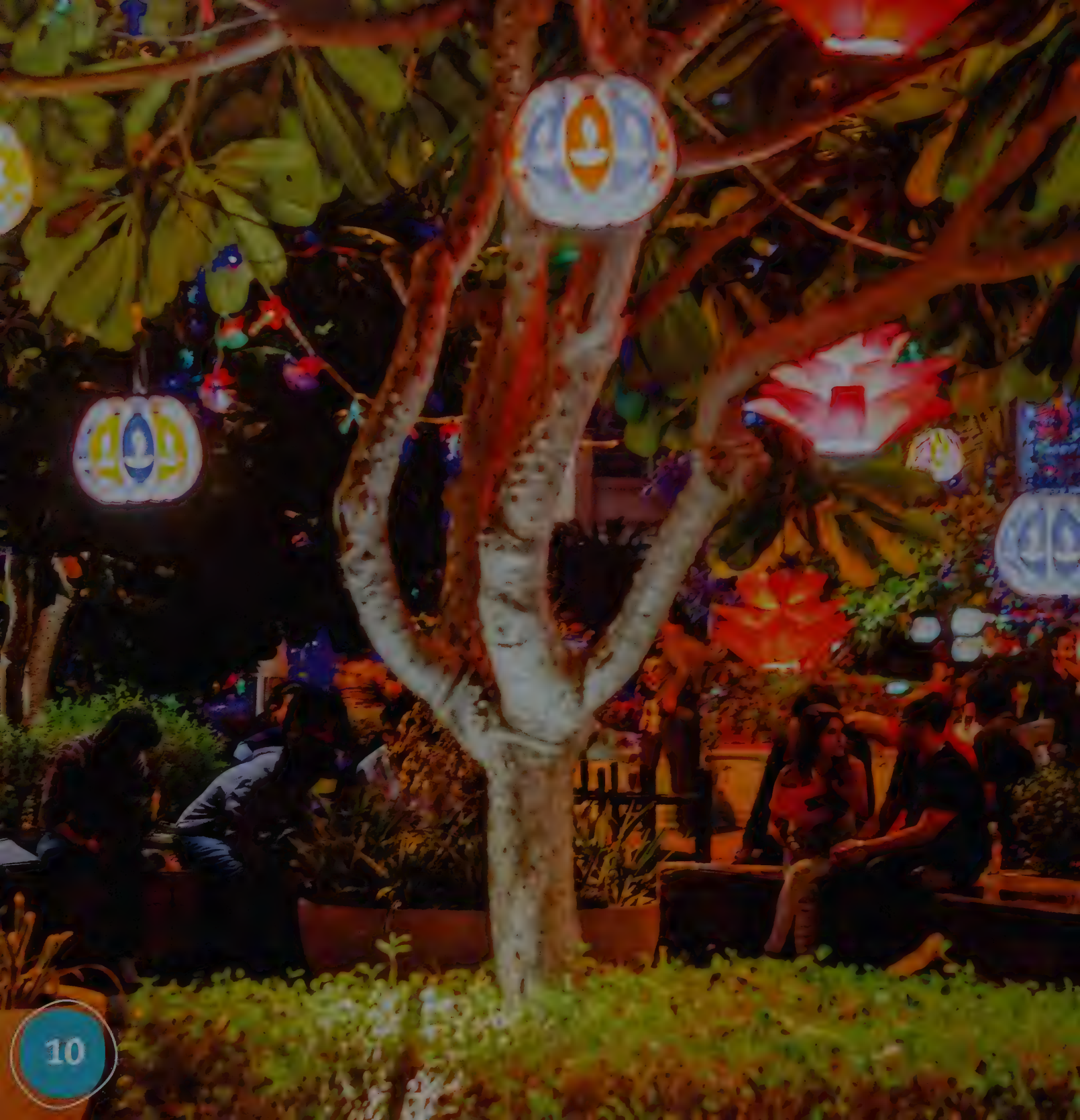
What important holidays does your family celebrate?

Diwali is also called the Festival of Lights.

Lights are an important part of the holiday.

People light small oil lamps.

Why is Festival of Lights another good name for Diwali?



Diwali lasts five nights.

People decorate the first two days.

They put up lights.

The third day is the

most important.

People dress up.

They gather with family.

They say special prayers.

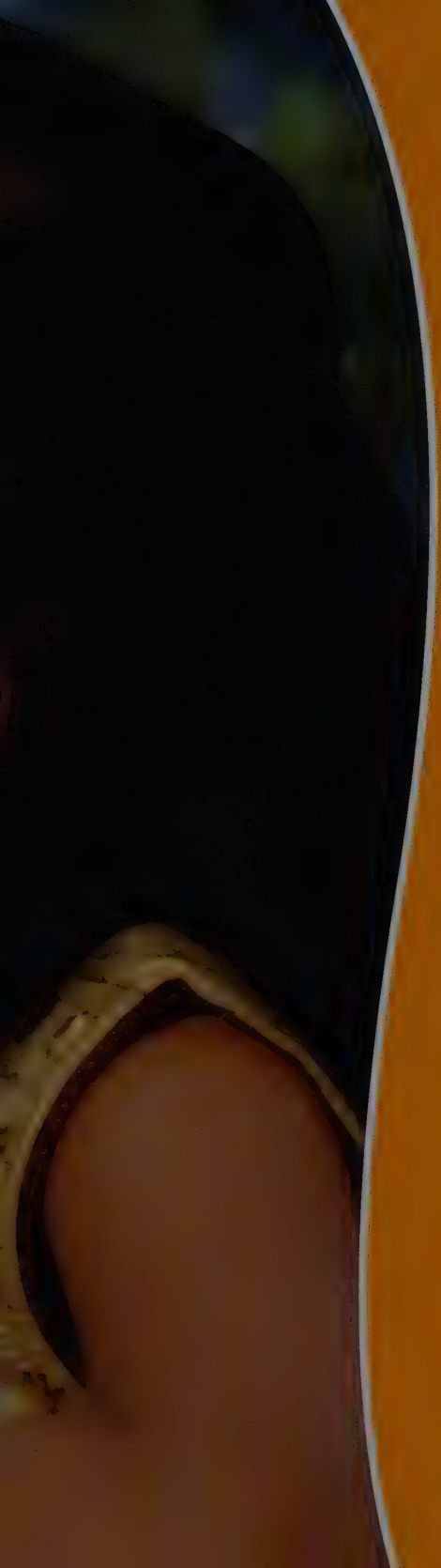
Fireworks light up the sky.

People get together to watch.

Then people have a big feast with family.

They eat sweet treats too.

What other holidays include a big feast?



The holiday has two more days. People stay with family and friends. People give gifts to each other.

Diwali is a time

to be happy.

It is a celebration

of good things in life.

Diwali Diyas

A diya is a small oil lamp. Diyas are usually made of clay. To celebrate Diwali, people light the wicks of the diyas.

Picture Glossary

decorate

to put up special and pretty things for a holiday

feast

a large meal

fireworks

devices that explode to make loud noises and colorful lights

prayers

words people say or think to their god

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Chopra, Shweta. *The Diwali Gift.* Belmont, CA: 3 Curious Monkeys, 2015.

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